A

True ACCOUNT

Of what was Transacted in the

ASSEMBLY

OF THE

UNITED MINISTERS

OF

Devon and *Cornwal*;

Met at Exon the 5th and 6th of *May*, 1719;

BY THOSE

MINISTERS

Who Sign'd the

FIRST ARTICLE

OF THE

CHURCH of *ENGLAND*, &c.

CONTAINING,

I. A Voluntary Declaration of their Faith concerning the Doctrine of the Sacred TRINITY, as reveal'd in the HOLY SCRIPTURES.

II. Their Resolution with Respect to the Admission of Persons to preach as Candidates, to be Ordain'd, and Recommended to Congregations.

III. A Letter of Advice to the People of their respective Congregations, &c. to adhere stedfastly to the Receiv'd Doctrine of the Ever Blessed TRINITY.

Publish'd by Order of the said ASSEMBLY, *to prevent Misrepresentation.*

EXON: Printed by G. BISHOP, 1719.

A TRUE ACCOUNT of what was Tranſacted in the ASSEMBLY of the UNITED MINISTERS of *Devon* and *Cornwal*, met at *EXON*, the 5th and 6th of *May*, 1719, by thoſe MINISTERS who Sign'd the Firſt ARTICLE of the CHURCH of *ENGLAND*, &c.

CONTAINING,

First, *A Voluntary Declaration of their Faith concerning the Doctrine of the Sacred* TRINITY, *as Revealed in the* Holy Scriptures.

Tueſday, May 5.

WE whoſe Names are underwritten, to avoid the unjuſt Charge of having departed from the commonly receiv'd Faith in the HOLY TRINITY, do, for ourſelves, declare, That we believe the Doctrine of the Ever

BLESSED TRINITY, as expreſs'd in the Firſt Article of the CHURCH of *ENGLAND*, to be according to the *Holy Scriptures*.

The Firſt ARTICLE of the CHURCH *of* ENGLAND.

Of Faith in the HOLY TRINITY.

THERE is but One Living and True GOD, Everlaſting, without Body, Parts, or Paſſions; of Infinite Power, Wiſdom, and Goodneſs; the Maker and Preſerver of all Things, both Viſible and Inviſible: And in the Unity of this Godhead, there be Three Perſons, of one Subſtance, Power, and Eternity, the Father, *the* Son, *and the* Holy Ghoſt.

PASTORS

PASTORS and Ordained MINISTERS,

Nath. Harding, Modr.
Tho. Edgley, Scribe
William Horſham.
Jacob Sandarcock.
Samuel Wood.
John Roſewall.
Thomas Walſh.
Samuel Hall.
John Moore.
Deliverance Larkham.
John Powell.
Jacob Baylies.
Richard Evans.
Michael Martyn.
Peter Kellow.
John Ball.
Jelinger Symonds.
John Enty.
John Walrond.
William Giles.
Andrew Majendie.
George Bowcher.
Samuel Short.
Henry Atkins.
Joſiah Eveliegh.
John Sloly.
John Hughes.
Penuel Symonds.
William Bartlet.
Peter Baron.
Richard Glanvil.
Robert Wood.
William Palk.
Benjamin Wills.
Jonathan Wheeler.
Samuel Stoddon.
Henry Brett.
Hugh Browne.
Eliezer Hancock.
Benjamin Flavell.
Iſaac Clark.
Cornelius Bond.
Alexander Walker.
John Lavington.
John Copleſtone.

P. S. Tho' Mr. *Withers* was, by the Providence of GOD, detained from the Aſſembly, and thereby prevented from joining with them, yet having lately ſatisfy'd his People, by aſſenting to the Firſt Article of the CHURCH of *ENGLAND*, he conſents that the World ſhould be inform'd of his ſincere Adherence to the ſame Principles.

Se-

Secondly, *Their Reſolution with Reſpect to the Admiſſion of Perſons to preach as Candidates, to be Ordain'd, and Recommended to Congregations.*

WE, who have ſubſcribed and declared our Aſſent to the Firſt Article of the CHURCH of *ENGLAND*, (diſclaiming all Juriſdiction over other Men's Conſciences) do likewiſe, for ourſelves, farther declare, That we cannot in Conſcience give our Approbation of any Perſon's being admitted to preach as a Candidate, or to be Ordain'd, or Recommended by Us to any Congregation, unleſs he profeſſeth his Aſſent to the aboveſaid Article, or to the Anſwers to the 5th and 6th Queſtions the *Aſſembly's Shorter Catechiſm*, viz.

5th. *There is but One only, the Living and True* GOD.

6th. *There are Three Perſons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghoſt; and theſe Three are One* GOD, *the ſame in Subſtance, equal in Power and Glory.*

Or to the Collective Sense of the last *September* Assembly, *viz.*

That there is but One Living and True GOD; *and that the Father, Word, and Holy Ghost, are that One* GOD.

PASTORS and Ordained MINISTERS.

Nath. Harding, Modr.
Tho. Edgley, Scribe.
William Horsham.
Jacob Sandercock.
Samuel Wood.
Thomas Walsh.
John Rosewell.
Samuel Hall.
John Moore.
Deliverance Larkham.
John Powell.
Jacob Baylies.
Richard Evans.
Michael Martyn.
Peter Kellow.
John Ball.
Jelinger Symonds.
John Enty.
John Walrond.
William Giles.
Andrew Majendie.
George Bowcher.
Samuel Short.
Henry Atkins.
Josiah Eveliegh.
John Sloly.
John Hughes.
Penuel Symonds.
William Bartlet.
Peter Baron.
Richard Glanvill.
Robert Wood.
William Palk.
Benjamin Wills.
Jonathan Wheeler.
Samuel Stoddon.
Henry Brett.
Hugh Brown.
Eliezer Hancock.
Benjamin Flavell.
Isaac Clark.
Cornelius Bond.
Alexander Walker.
John Lavington.
John Copleston.

Wed-

Wedneſday, May 6, 1719.

Thirdly, *A* LETTER *of Advice to the People of their reſpective Congregations, &c. to adhere ſtedfaſtly to the Received Doctrine of the Ever Bleſſed* TRINITY.

WE, the United Miniſters of *Devon* and *Cornwal*, being now aſſembled in the City of *Exon*, cannot but expreſs the utmoſt Concern and Grief of Mind that we are under, at the Propagation and Increaſe of very great and dangerous Errors, relating to the Doctrine of the Ever Bleſſed TRINITY, finding, by ſorrowful Experience, the Boldneſs and Induſtry of many who pervert the Faith, and overthrow the Hope of Chriſtians; not only by venting in Books ſuch Pernicious Tenets as theſe following, *viz.*

That JESUS CHRIST *is a Divine Perſon, but inferiour to the* FATHER *in Nature, Attributes, and Perfections, and that he is next to GOD in the Excellency of his Nature*, &c. Letter to a Diſſenter, Pag. 23.

And

And that the Holy Ghoſt is a Divine Perſon made under the Supreme GOD *by our Saviour, of different Perfections and Offices from the Father and the Son,* Whiſt. Vol. 4. P. 334. Plainly ſuggeſting Three Gods, One Supreme, and Two Subordinate: And others declaring both to be created; but alſo, by many ſubtil Equivocations, and ſophiſtical Arguments, inſinuating their Leaven into the Minds of weak and unſtable Chriſtians, to the perplexing of ſome, and the ſeducing of others, from the ancient and ſcriptural Foundations, upon which they had built their Confidence.

We therefore, eſteeming our ſelves as Watchmen over *the Church of GOD, which he hath purchaſed with his own Blood* * to guard it even againſt thoſe *that from among ourſelves ſhould ariſe ſpeaking perverſe Things*, ‡ as well as againſt others from abroad; being alſo *put in Truſt with the Goſpel* † and *ſet for the Defence of it* *, do think it our indiſpenſable Duty moſt earneſtly to admoniſh and intreat you, in the Bowels of our Lord Jesus Christ, to watch againſt, and ſtedfaſtly to withſtand the Temptations, of all ſuch Perſons, Books and Doſtrines as have a Tendency to unſettle your Faith in the true and proper Divinity of the Son of God, and of the Holy Spirit, as one God, with the Father, into whoſe bleſſed Name you were Baptized.

* *Acts* 20. 28. ‡ *Acts* 20. 30. † 1 *Theſſ.* 2. 4. * Phil. 1. 17.

AND, tho' we heartily pity and pray for them that have fallen into ſuch dangerous Errours, and ſhall by all Chriſtian Methods ſeek their Recovery, yet, as we are Stewards of the Myſteries of Chriſt, we think, we could not approve our ſelves to be faithful to him, or to your Souls, if we did not moſt ſeriouſly warn and exhort you to take heed of all ſuch Perſons, and avoid their pernicious Errours, which we plainly diſcern to be ſuch, as enter into the very *Vitals* of Chriſtianity, make a Change as to the Object of Worſhip, alter the Nature of Chriſts Satisfaction, and tend to ſhake your Faith in the Holy Scriptures.

THEREFORE, We adviſe and beſeech you, as you regard the Honour of our Bleſſed Saviour, and the Safety of your precious Souls, *to mark them who cauſe Diviſions and Offences, contrary to the Doctrines which ye have learned.** *To hold faſt the Form of ſound Words,* † *and to* CONTEND EARNESTLY (but ſoberly and Chriſtianly) *for the Faith, as it was once delivered te the Saints.* ‡ That you may never be prevailed with to QUIT the GOOD FOUNDATION upon which ALONE we apprehend your HOPES CAN BE ESTABLISHED: And which the Chriſtian Churches have agreed and centred in, throughout almoſt all the Ages of Chriſtianity, and which God by his Holy Spirit

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* Rom. 16. 17. † 2 Tim. 1. 13. ‡ Jude 3.

rit hath owned and ſucceeded, to the Comfort and Salvation of vaſt Multitudes.

It affects us moſt nearly, to reflect upon the ſad Eſtate of the Church of God in our Day; to ſee ſo many Members of it corrupted from the Simplicity that is in Chriſt, and ſo ready to ſuck in unſound Doctrines, very repugnant to the great Myſtery of Godlineſs, contrary to the Unity of the Godhead, and derogatory to the Honour of our Glorious Redeemer and the Holy Spirit. And it will render us almoſt void of Comfort, if we ſhould ſee you to depart from the Unity of Faith throughout the Churches, and to renounce the wholeſome Principles of our common Chriſtianity; which God forbid.

Watch therefore, we intreat you, *ſtand faſt in the Lord*, * Dearly Beloved, and hold the Myſtery of the Faith in a pure Conſcience. † *And ſuffer not your ſelves to be as Children toſſed to and fro by every Wind of Doctrine, by the Sleight of Men, and cunnitg Craftineſs, whereby they lay in wait to deceive; but ſpeaking the Truth in Love, grow up into him in all things, who is the Head, even* Christ ‡. We hope, and truſt, that you will evermore be ready to own and aſſert the true and real Godhead of the Father, the Word, and Holy Ghoſt, according to the Import of your Sacred Baptiſm. And, as there are Myſteries of an unſearchable Depth in the Divine Nature, and Manner of

* Phil. 4. 1. † 1 Tim. 3. 9. ‡ Eph. 4. 14, 15.

of Subſiſtence; ſo you muſt be content, to know but in part here; avoiding all bold Inquiries into them, beyond what the Holy Scriptures have diſcover'd: And all irreverent Diſcourſes and Diſputes about this awful and myſterious Doctrine; humbly ſubmitting your Faith to the Revelation which the All-wiſe GOD hath made of himſelf, and patiently waiting for the Day of Manifeſtation, *when we ſhall ſee Him, as He is.*

IN the mean Time, we heartily and unanimouſly declare our Conſent of Faith in the Words of the Firſt Article of the CHURCH of *ENGLAND*, or of the Anſwers to the 5th and 6th Queſtions of the *Aſſembies Shorter-Catechiſm*, or the Collective Senſe of the laſt *September-Aſſembly*, which we acknowledge to be ſound Summaries of our Faith in the Great Article of the HOLY TRINITY; and by which we maintain a Harmony with all the *Reformed Churches.*

WE hope, we ſhall never ceaſe to offer up the moſt fervent Prayers to GOD for you, that He would *keep you from falling, and preſent you faultleſs before the Preſence of his Glory, with exceeding Joy* *. And we earneſtly deſire the like Mark of your Reſpect for us in this Hour of Temptation; that the Holy Spirit of GOD which he poureth out upon His Churches, may preſerve his Miniſters ſound in the

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* Jude 24.

the Faith, and exemplary in Life; that in all Things, they may ſhew themſelves *Patterns of Good Works: In Doctrine ſhewing Uncorruptneſs, Gravity, Sincerity, ſound Speech that cannot be condemn'd, that they who are of the contrary Part, may be aſhamed, having no evil Thing to ſay of us* †. That when we ſhall all come to give up an Account, both of our Faith and Practice, *We may be your Rejoycing, even as ye are ours, in the Day of the* LORD JESUS ‡.

AND now, Dear Brethren, We commend you to GOD, *and to the Word of his Grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an Inheritance among all them that are ſanctified by Faith which is in* Jeſus Chriſt *. To whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit, three Perſons and one God, be Glory and Majeſty, Dominion and Power, both now and evermore.

AMEN.

† Tit. 2. 7. ‡ 2 Cor. 1. 14. * Acts 20. 32.

PA-

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Samuel Stoddon.
Henry Brett.
Hugh Brown.
Eliezer Hancock.
Benjamiu Flavell.
Iſaac Clark.
Cornelius Bond.
Alexander Walker.
John Lavington.
John Copleſtone.

BRITISH MUSEUM 30 JUN 70

P.S.

P. S. Whereas ſeveral of our Brethren were not preſent at this Aſſembly, by Reaſon of their Diſtance, and other Incapacities of whoſe Concurrence with us, we have no Reaſon to doubt, their Names may ſhortly be expected in the *London* Edition.

N. *B.* There are ſeveral Candidates for the Miniſtry, that Concur with us in our declared Sentiments concerning the Doctrine of the HOLY TRINITY, whoſe Names we have not incerted in our Liſt, it having never been allowed that any ſhould have Votes in our Aſſembly before Ordination.

F I N I S.

FINIS.